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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants 1

Ishihara Hiroyuki et al.

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Confirmation No. 8806

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RESPONSE TO AUGUST 12, 2003 FINAL OFFICE ACTION

United States Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the August 12, 2003 Final Office Action, Applicants submit the following amendments to the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification: Applicants are not amending the specification in this response.

Amendments to the Claims: Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of the claims that begins on page 2 of this response.

Amendments to the Drawings: Applicants are not amending the drawings in this response.

Remarks/Arguments: Applicants' remarks and arguments in support of the patentability of the claims and the allowance of this application begin on page 9 of this response.